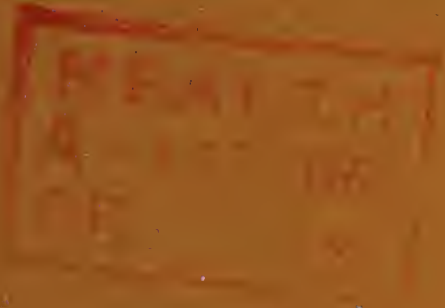


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REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER**

**OF HEALTH**

and

**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**INSPECTOR**

**FOR THE YEAR**

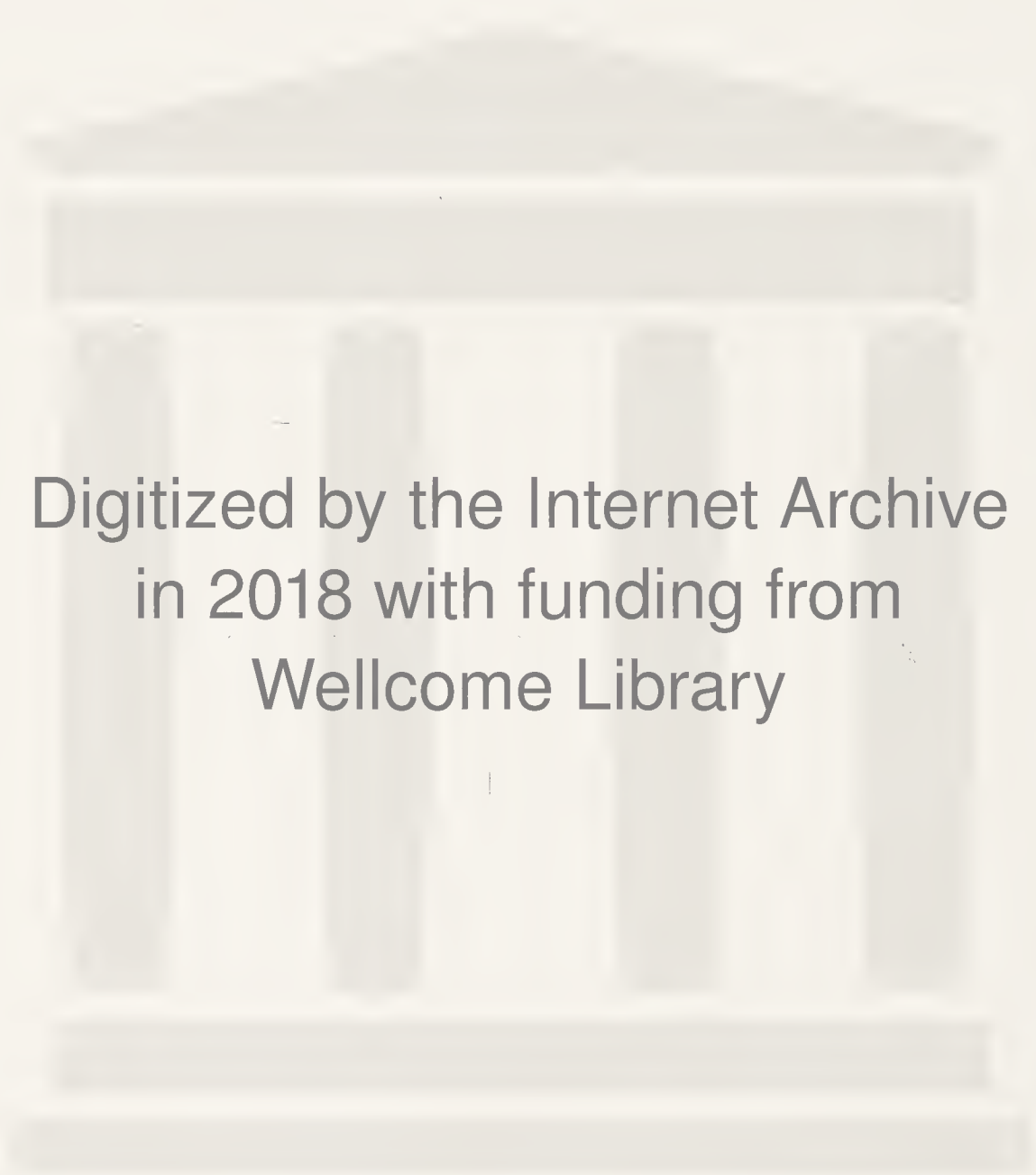
**1960**



# ***ANNUAL REPORT***

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH**



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# **REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

## **Public Health Department**

**FOR THE YEAR 1960**

Chairman of the Council : Councillor S. V. HILL

Vice-Chairman of the Council : Councillor G. E. PARTON

### **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Chairman : Councillor G. E. PARTON

Vice-Chairman : Councillor J. H. TAYLOR

#### **Committee Members :**

Councillor H. G. Bayliss

„ E. E. Clarke

„ E. J. T. Cole

„ R. J. Dickens

„ J. Dyer

„ S. V. Hill

Councillor E. Harris

„ A. E. Johnson

„ K. M. Johnson

„ J. N. Sanders

„ H. D. Spencer

„ A. P. Wells

„ A. E. Wharrad

### **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS of the LOCAL AUTHORITY**

W. DRAWNEEK, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health  
and Assistant County Medical Officer.

G. H. CHAMPION, Cert. "S.I.B.",  
Chief Public Health Inspector,  
Meat and Food Inspector,  
Inspector under the Shops Acts.

G. H. SMITH, Cert. "S.I.B.",  
Additional Public Health Inspector,  
Meat and Food Inspector.

R. HILL, Cert. "S.I.B.",  
Additional Public Health Inspector,  
Meat and Food Inspector.

Mrs. J. Lewis — Clerk

Mrs. E. N. Andrews — Clerk

Mrs. M. A. Arnold — Clerk



## To the Chairman and Members of the REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the annual report for the year 1960.

Over the last decade advances in the diagnosis and treatment of disease have increased the range and scope of the treatment services almost beyond recognition. New fields of medicine and surgery have been developed and the emphasis is shifting from acute physical disorders to the diseases of ageing, of stress, degenerations, cancers and disorders of the mind

In preventive medicine and public health, advances of a similar magnitude have been made and the work of the health department has altered accordingly.

Vaccinations and immunisations are a main feature of modern practice in preventive medicine. We can now protect against smallpox, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis and influenza. Pregnant women in contact with german measles can be given immunisation with gamma globulin to protect them from the disease which might otherwise affect their unborn babies, giving rise to congenital abnormalities, in particular to deafness. Persons going abroad can receive additional protection against typhoid and paratyphoid fever, cholera and yellow fever. The public in Redditch have not been slow to take advantage of these services and I am very pleased with the response to appeals for immunisation and vaccination. By achieving full immunisation and vaccination of the general public it is possible to prevent epidemics of diphtheria, poliomyelitis and smallpox.

With the saving of life by the new developments in prevention and treatment of disease an ever increasing number of persons is surviving to old age. The consequent increased proportion of elderly persons in the community means that there is taking place a gradual change in the work of the health department. Problems of the care of elderly persons in the community now form a major part of public health work. A great deal of effort is spent in preventing and alleviating disabilities of the elderly. In this work measures for the improvement of environmental hygiene play a major part, but to be successful they need to be coupled closely with the full use of all the personal health services. The formation of the Older Person's Advisory Committee to co-ordinate the activities of the voluntary and statutory services has simplified the task of co-ordinating the care of the elderly, particularly in respect of accident prevention in the home. Encouragement in this section of the work has been received in the form of a gift to the town of an old house "The Woodlands," which has been converted into an old person's home by voluntary contributions.

The Council have taken a broad interest in all matters affecting the health of the Redditch public and have included among the matters considered certain aspects of the treatment services. Stimulated by public criticism an enquiry was made into the facilities for dealing with accidents and emergencies in the urban district. Throughout the investigation a close liaison was kept with the County Council who are responsible for the ambulance service, the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board who are responsible for the hospital treatment and the Ministry of Health. Much discussion took place on how best to carry out improvements; a difficult problem in face of shortage of ambulance personnel and limitation of expenditure on new hospital accommodation. Finally a general policy for building up a first class casualty service for the area including a new accident hospital and a radio controlled ambulance was agreed. The first steps have been taken in the building of a new theatre wing at the Bromsgrove General Hospital and progress has been made in the training of those personnel dealing with casualties in modern developments in first aid and casualty work.

During the year research has been carried out in environmental health. Two of the projects dealt with were bacterial contamination of sweet vending machines and the health aspects of maggot breeding, an industry peculiar to Redditch. In this work I am very grateful to the public health laboratory service for the help in laboratory investigations; particularly to Dr. R. J. Henderson, Director of the Worcester Laboratory.

Health education work has now become a regular feature of the department. A stock of visual aids, flannelgraphs, filmstrips and demonstration material has been built up. Use has been made of tape recordings in discussion groups and to illustrate lectures. Special attention has been given to food hygiene and to accident prevention.

In this introductory letter mention can be made of merely a few highlights, details of these as with many other sections of the work appear throughout the report. The work of the health department is rather like an iceberg, only a small proportion appears above the surface. It is the routine, solid hard work that receives little notice or mention that really counts. The present tendency to featurize the more glamorous aspects of public health work on the radio, television and in the press can tend to give a rather distorted impression to some members of the public.

Throughout the year the staff received every support and encouragement in their work from a truly health conscious council. They have worked well together as a team. Liaison with the public, with the health departments of adjacent areas, the Birmingham Regional Board and the Mid-Worcestershire Hospital Management Committee have been close and effective.

The pressure of work throughout the year has been relentless with no time to pause and take stock of the situation. However, results have been achieved such that 1960 has been a rewarding and memorable year.

I am Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. DRAWNEEK.

Medical Officer of Health.

# Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

AREA — 12,059 Acres.

Registrar-General's Estimate of resident population,  
mid 1960 — 34,440

Number of inhabited houses, end of 1960 — 10,768

Rateable Value — £460,521

Sum represented by the Penny Rate — £1,845

## VITAL STATISTICS

### ESTIMATED POPULATION.

1959 — 33,840  
1960 — 34,440

Population figures as quoted from the Annual Reports of Medical  
Officer of Health.

Year					Population
1901	...	...	...	...	13,493
1911	...	...	...	...	15,463
1921	...	...	...	...	16,530
1931	...	...	...	...	19,280
1939	...	...	...	...	22,760
1945	...	...	...	...	25,470
1950	...	...	...	...	29,110
1951	...	...	...	...	29,184 — Census
1952	...	...	...	...	30,360
1953	...	...	...	...	30,490
1954	...	...	...	...	30,710
1955	...	...	...	...	30,930
1956	...	...	...	...	31,390
1957	...	...	...	...	32,220
1958	...	...	...	...	33,120
1959	...	...	...	...	33,840
1960	...	...	...	...	34,440



**LIVE BIRTHS.** (Figures in brackets are 1959 totals).

LIVE BIRTHS			
	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	294	282	576
Illegitimate ...	20	17	37
Total ...	314 (281)	299 (273)	613 (554)

**Birth Rate** (Births per 1,000 population) :—

Area Comparability Factor : 0.95

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Crude :	15.89	17.63	15.88	16.37	17.9
Standardised :	15.41	17.10	15.09	15.56	16.9

**Illegitimacy Rate** (Total live illegitimate births per 1,000 total live births) :—

1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
46.18	42.63	42.08	25.84	13.91	42.25	38.02	48.73	60.35

Percentage of illegitimate live births of total births : 6.03%

**STILL BIRTHS.**

STILL BIRTHS			
	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	5	8	13
Illegitimate ...	—	1	1
Total ...	5 (6)	9 (7)	14 (13)

**Still-Birth Rate** (Still-births per 1,000 live and still births) :—

1960	1959	1958	1957	1950
22.32	22.92	20.48	30.77	15.00

Total live and still births : 627

The birth rate has increased from 15.56 in 1959 to 16.9 in 1960. The still birth rate has decreased from 22.92 in 1959 to 22.32 in 1960.

Illegitimacy has increased still more. It is very worrying indeed that mere children are becoming pregnant. They are becoming adult before they have enjoyed their childhood. They are receiving a sordid introduction to sexual relationships which can be a blight on the remainder of their life. Many of these children have not known the warm affection of a happy family life and their introduction to parenthood in this unfortunate precipitate way, wrecks all chances they may have of creating a happy family of their own. Their unfortunate offspring can likewise be blighted by missing what their parents have missed of a healthy emotional upbringing. Thus three generations are affected; this is a terrible thought. Those responsible for the care and education of children, in particular the parents of children approaching puberty have a responsibility to ensure that these children understand the consequences of the sex act; that pregnancies do not arise from ignorance, and that they understand the place of sex in family life. They have a responsibility to make sure that the children approach sex from the viewpoint of love and affection and not from the viewpoint of sordid promiscuity.

## DEATHS.

(1959 figures in brackets).

DEATHS		
M	F	Total
194 (188)	164 (142)	358 (330)

### Death Rate (Deaths per 1,000 population) :—

	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Crude :	9.62	9.47	8.79	9.75	10.31
Standardised :	11.15	10.98	10.55	11.7	12.4
Area Comparability Factor : 1.20					

The principal causes of death were as follows :—

1. Disease of the heart and circulatory system  
(including intra-cranial vascular lesions) 47.00% of all deaths.  
(49.09%)
2. Cancer (all forms) and other malignant  
disease ... .. 44.00% „ „ „  
(17.57%)
3. Respiratory Disease (excluding T.B.) ... 14.53% „ „ „  
(16.06%)
4. Road and other Accidents ... .. 1.67% „ „ „  
(3.94%)
5. Tuberculosis ... .. .30% „ „ „  
(.91%)

## MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were no deaths due to causes associated with childbirth.

## INFANT AND NEONATAL MORTALITY.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR			
	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	5	3	8
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
Total ...	5	3	8

DEATHS OF INFANTS WITHIN THE FIRST FOUR WEEKS			
	M	F	Total
Legitimate ...	3	3	6
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
Total ...	3	3	6

**Infant and Neonatal Mortality Rates**

	1960	1959	1958	1950
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births ... ..	13.05	23.47	22.8	20.99
Legitimate infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate births	13.05	24.67	20.91	17.90
Illegitimate infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate births ... ..	—	—	1.9	87.0
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ... ..	9.79	16.24	15.4	—

**Causes of Infant Deaths.**

(N.B.—Neonatal deaths in brackets).

	1960	1959	1958
Prematurity ... ..	1(3)	(3)	(4)
Broncho-Pneumonia ... ..	1(1)	1(4)	3(1)
Congenital Malformation ... ..	—	—	1
Asphyxia ... ..	—	—	(1)
Heart Failure ... ..	—	—	—
Adrenal and peri-adrenal haemorrhage ... ..	—	—	—
Hydrocephalus .. ..	—	(1)	—
Multiple Injuries ... ..	—	—	1
Malignant Diseases ... ..	—	—	1
Atelectasis ... ..	—	(3)	(3)
Coma ... ..	—	—	(1)
Respiratory Failure ... ..	(1)	—	(1)
Poisoning by Gas Mains ... ..	—	1	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage ... ..	(1)	(2)	—

DEATHS BY AGE		
Age in years	1960 %	1959 %
Under 1 ...	1.68	5.71
1 – 14 ...	0.56	0.57
15 – 24 ...	1.12	0.57
25 – 64 ...	26.81	29.71
65 and over	69.83	63.43



# CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT, 1960

CAUSE OF DEATH	M	F	Total	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Pop. 1960	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Pop. 1959
1. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	1	0	1	0.019	0.088
2. Other forms of Tu- berculosis ...	0	0	0	0	0
3. Syphilitic Disease ...	0	1	1	0.019	0
4. Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal Infec- tions ...	0	0	0	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis...	0	0	0	0	0
8. Measles ...	0	0	0	0	0
9. Other Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	0	0	0	0	0
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	3	7	10	0.29	0.65
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus ...	9	0	9	0.261	0.27
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	0	7	7	0.23	0.088
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	0	0	0	0	0.08
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	20	20	40	1.161	0.384
15. Leukaemia, Aleukae- mia ...	0	0	0	0	0.059
16. Diabetes ...	2	1	3	0.087	0.059
17. Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	21	31	52	1.509	1.42
18. Coronary Disease, Angina ...	37	21	58	1.687	1.152
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	3	4	7	0.23	0.206
20. Other Heart Disease	17	33	50	1.451	0.591
21. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	2	9	11	0.31	1.536
22. Influenza ...	1	0	1	0.010	0.059
23. Pneumonia ...	9	6	15	0.435	1.654
24. Bronchitis ...	27	6	33	0.957	0.148
25. Other Disease of the Respiratory System	2	1	3	0.087	0.414
26. Ulcer of the Stomach and Duodenum ...	5	0	5	0.144	0.08
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	0	0	0	0	0
28. Nephritis and Neph- rosis ...	5	1	6	0.174	0.266
29. Hyperplasia of Pros- tate ...	2	0	2	0.058	0
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ...	0	0	0	0	0.08
31. Congenital Malform- ations ...	1	0	1	0.019	0
32. Other defined and ill- defined diseases ...	10	10	20	0.58	0.355
33. Motor Vehicle Acci- dents ...	5	1	6	0.174	0.206
34. All other Accidents...	7	3	10	0.29	0.059
35. Suicide ...	5	2	7	0.23	0.206
36. Homicide and Opera- tions of War ...	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL ...	194 (188)	164 (149)	358 (337)	10.41	10.11



# General Provision of Health Services

## (a) CLINICS AND TREATMENT SERVICES.

Clinic	Situation	Time of Holding
Redditch Infant Welfare Centre (Vaccination and Immunisation Thursday)	Old Vicarage, Bromsgrove Road	Tuesday, 2 p.m. 2nd and 4th Thursday, 10 a.m.
Batchley Estate Infant Welfare Clinic (Vaccination and Immunisation 2nd and 4th Monday)	Church Hall, Batchley Estate	Monday, 2 p.m.
Abbeydale Infant Welfare Centre (Including Vaccination and Immunisation)	Abbeydale Community Centre	2nd & 4th Thursdays, 2 p.m.
Astwood Bank Infant Welfare Centre (including Immunisation and Vaccination)	Baptist Chapel, Hoopers Lane, Astwood Bank	2nd & 4th Mondays, 2 p.m.
Feckenham Infant Welfare Centre (including Immunisation and Vaccination)	Village Hall, Feckenham	3rd Wednesdays, 2 p.m.
Greenlands Infant Welfare Clinic (Including Vaccination and Immunisation)	The Clinic, Greenlands Estate	1st and 3rd Thursday, 2 p.m.
Headless Cross Infant Welfare Clinic (Including Vaccination and Immunisation)	Methodist Chapel, Headless Cross	1st and 3rd Monday, 2 p.m.
School Clinic	Old Vicarage	Thursdays, 9.30 a.m.
Dental Clinic	Day Nursery, Bromsgrove Road	By Appointment
Ante-natal Clinic	Old Vicarage	Tuesdays, 10.0 a.m.
Orthopaedic Clinic	Smallwood Hospital	Mondays, 9.30 a.m.
Tuberculosis Clinic	Smallwood Hospital	Thursdays, 10.0 a.m.
Ophthalmic Clinic	Old Vicarage	By Appointment
Family Planning Clinic	Old Vicarage	1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 6.30 - 8 p.m.
Chiropody Clinic	Old Vicarage	By Appointment

## **MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING.**

Three agencies provided the Midwifery Services for the district, (1) the family doctor—ante and post-natal care and home confinements; (2) the County Council—ante-natal clinics and district midwives; (3) the Regional Hospital Board—hospitals for delivery and treatment. The County Council provided nurse-midwives who attended general nursing and midwifery cases in the home.

The nature of the ante-natal clinics has been changing over the years. They are now no longer diagnostic and treatment clinics but purely health educational.

## **HEALTH VISITING.**

The County Council continued to provide a Health Visiting Service. The Health Visitors serving the district are :—

Miss B. E. Cramp, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V., Old Vicarage, Bromsgrove Road.

Miss V. J. Crow, S.R.N., H.V., Old Vicarage, Bromsgrove Road.

Miss B. M. Gittins, S.R.N., T.B.Cert., H.V., Old Vicarage, Bromsgrove Road.

Mrs E. Jones, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V., Shelley Close, Redditch.

Mrs. I. Lowe, R.G.N., S.R.F.N., H.V., Old Vicarage, Bromsgrove Road.

Miss M. Pike, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V., Old Vicarage, Bromsgrove Road.

Miss A. Potter, S.R.N., Q.I.D.N.S., H.V., 6 Church Road, Webheath, Redditch.

## **SCHOOL HEALTH.**

The County Council continued to provide an extensive school health service. School Medical Officers carried out inspections of children and regular Minor Ailments Clinics were held at the Old Vicarage, Bromsgrove Road, Redditch. Specialist, Ophthalmic and Orthopaedic Clinics were also held. A full-time Assistant School Dental Officer was available.

The value of routine school medical inspection and minor ailment clinics is becoming less and less as standards of health improve. More and more emphasis is being placed on work with handicapped children. A new problem is arising, a problem of malnutrition of school children. This is ever increasing. It is no longer malnutrition from shortage of food, but malnutrition from gluttonous over eating, particularly sugar, starch and fats, an over nutrition. There are appearing far too many Billy and Bessie Bunters in our Redditch schools.

## **SMALLPOX AND POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION, AND DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION.**

The County Council continued to provide this service. It was administered by the District Medical Officer of Health.

## **LABORATORY FACILITIES.**

Bacteriological and virological investigations were carried out for the Department by the Worcester Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Special investigations were carried out by the Central Public Health Laboratory at Colindale. Chemical analyses were carried out by the County Laboratory, Worcester.

## **HOSPITALS.**

The following hospitals were available to the residents of the district :—

1. Infectious Diseases ... Hayley Green Isolation Hospital, Halesowen; Little Bromwich Fever Hospital; Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester.



2. Maternity ... ..	Bromsgrove General Hospital; Mary Stevens Maternity Hospital, Stourbridge; Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport; Avonside Hospital, Evesham.
3. General Medical and Surgical Cases	Smallwood Hospital, Redditch; Bromsgrove General Hospital; Royal Infirmary, Worcester and various Birmingham Hospitals.
4. Children's Diseases ...	The Children's Hospital, Birmingham.
5. Venereal Diseases ... ..	The General Hospital, Birmingham;
6. Aged Chronic Sick ...	Bromsgrove General Hospital; Blakebrook Hospital, Kidderminster; Avonside Hospital, Evesham.
7. Mental Illness ... ..	Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital, Bromsgrove.

## HEALTH EDUCATION.

The Council continued to subscribe to the Central Council for Health Education whose services were utilised during the year.

Many talks on health subjects were given by members of the Health Department to various organisations in the town. Particular concentration was made on food hygiene, accident prevention, in particular accidents in the homes of the elderly. The effect of the improvements in equipment and methods referred to in the introductory letter was to enable the health department to undertake more work of this nature and to do this work more effectively.

## HOME AND DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

The service continued to function during the year. It was conducted through the agency of the W.V.S. for the County Council by Mrs. L. M. Brown.

Cases dealt with :—

Maternity Cases	...	...	...	...	31
Chronic Sick	...	...	...	...	105
Others	...	...	...	...	18

Six part time Home Helps were employed, there were also six Home Helps employed occasionally.

This service is completely inadequate for the requirements of the district and it is not easy to see how improvements can be made unless a great deal more money is spent on the service. The biggest difficulty is that when potential recruits can earn more money in a factory, or taking out work, there is little incentive to become a home help unless there is a vocational drive. Unfortunately too few people feel this vocational drive.

## WELFARE.

Alterations in the department have been necessitated by the development of the mental welfare service. Mr. A. H. Craddock and Mr. A. Grant have been appointed mental welfare officers and Mr. R. E. Hammond has been appointed as a trainee.

For much of the year there was no general welfare department in Redditch; general welfare being administered from the County Buildings in Worcester. This was a very unfortunate loss as the essence of good welfare work is the work done in the homes. A new welfare officer was appointed, Miss A. I. Giddins, and so the service was re-established.

## **REDDITCH DISABLED CLUB**

I am grateful to Mrs. J. M. Hadley, S.R.N., S.C.M., for providing the following report :—

The Club has now forty-five members. Fresh applications are received at nearly every meeting from local doctors, health visitors and from the members who tell us of neighbours who cannot get out because of disability and would like to join the club.

A Red Cross nurse visits the home to assess the disability, to decide the most appropriate type of transport and if the applicant needs to carry any medicine or tablets (a most important point when accepting people who suffer from heart disease, such as angina pectoris). When a new member arrives he receives a kind welcome and is soon absorbed into the life of the Club. It is very heart warming to watch how the members help each other, forgetting their own disabilities in so doing.

We now arrange outings into the countryside, hiring a large coach and a smaller vehicle for legless members. The loading of these is a problem and takes a long time, but it is accomplished with humour and valiant work by the Red Cross personnel and the coach drivers. The efforts are well worth it when one sees the pleasure derived from the drive. Red Cross nurses travel in both vehicles with appropriate medicines in case of illness. The only mishap we have had was when a nurse herself suffered from travel sickness. We have found that the members love short trips to well known places near Redditch and greatly enjoy seeing the town and outlying districts to see improvements and changes in places they once knew so well and can no longer visit because of their disabilities.

We do several handicrafts ranging from rug making, basketry, embroidery, metal work and jewellery. We hope to raise money for more outings from the sale of these goods and have many orders, but we do experience some difficulty in getting the members to part with the things they have made. They are so proud of having made something that they buy them back again and take the articles home. One spastic boy of twenty-one is embarking on a project to make trays for several aunts who have been good to him and whom he has never been able to repay before. He is very proud of his efforts and his mother is delighted with his increased vitality and interest. We collected enough articles to hold an exhibition which created a good deal of interest and requests for the goods on display.

The year 1960 saw the moving of the Club into permanent headquarters next to the Dorothy Terry Red Cross House. This delightful room furnished with gifts from Redditch people provides more scope for club activities. We have many plans which will bring enjoyment and improvements in health to those handicapped people who are very often forgotten.

## **THE WOODLANDS.**

A large house on Evesham Road was offered by the Terry family in memorium to the late Dorothy Terry as a home for old persons. As the Redditch Urban District Council were not a welfare authority the Worcestershire County Council was approached to consider the matter. At a joint meeting with representatives of the County Council on the site the matter was discussed and it was announced that the County Council were not prepared to accept the offer of this gift for this purpose, but were prepared to use the home if anyone else would convert it into an old person's home. The British Red Cross Society came forward and offered to take the house, convert it, and run it as an old persons' home on behalf of the town; on the understanding that they would receive the sponsorship of the local council and the people of the town would help to contribute towards the conversion.



This offer was warmly received by the Redditch Public and by the Redditch Urban District Council and an appeal was launched. Very soon the house was converted and opened by Her Royal Highness Princess Royal on 11th June, 1960. Initially the home houses nine men and three women, the average age being 81, some being over 90. The general policy is to have no single rooms but to house the residents sleeping two or three to a room. It has been found that the apparent lack of privacy is more than offset by the feeling of safety in having someone in the room who can ring for matron.

When older persons are taken ill they are kept in the home as far as is reasonable and where an illness would normally be treated in a patient's home it is dealt with in the same way in the old persons home. Only when a case would normally be transferred to hospital is this done. The Matron and staff have tried very successfully to abolish any institutional atmosphere so that there is a community atmosphere of persons living together and helping together. The remark of one old lady as she opened the front door one bitterly cold and wet night "its good to be home matron" typifies her success in this direction. Already plans are being made to enlarge this home.

## HOUSING

The housing figures for 1960 are as follows :—

Number of houses built by Council during year	...	58
Number houses built by private enterprise	...	196
Number of houses under construction by Council	...	61
Number of houses under construction by private enterprise	...	181
Number of houses built by others (Worcestershire County Council, etc.)	...	—
Total number of post-war Council houses built	...	2,174

Population in relation to the number of inhabited dwellings :—

Year	Population (Estimated)	Increase or decrease in Population	Natural Increase (births less deaths)	Increase by Immigration	Units of Accommodation	Increase of units of Accommodation	Number of Persons per unit of Accommodation
1942	23,960				7,416		3.23
1943	26,390	2,430	207	2,223	7,437	21	3.55
1944	25,940	—450	335	—785	7,437	0	3.49
1945	25,470	—470	190	—660	7,486	49	3.40
1946	26,040	570	272	298	7,792	306	3.34
1947	26,680	640	197	443	8,054	262	3.31
1948	27,900	1,220	199	1,021	8,265	211	3.38
1949	28,440	540	206	334	8,536	271	3.33
1950	29,110	670	229	441	8,831	295	3.30
1951	29,400	290	225	65	9,073	242	3.24
1952	30,360	960	253	707	9,261	188	3.28
1953	30,490	130	248	—118	9,456	195	3.22
1954	30,710	220	230	—10	9,786	330	3.14
1955	30,930	220	196	24	9,845	59	3.09
1956	31,390	460	199	261	9,954	109	3.15
1957	32,220	830	263	567	10,439	485	3.01
1958	33,120	900	235	665	10,332	107	3.21
1959	33,840	720	224	496	10,570	238	3.2
1960	34,440	560	255	305	10,763	198	3.2
1945 to 1960		8,930 (8,370)	3,431 (3,176)	5,755 (5,450)		3,496 (3,298)	

## MEDICAL PRIORITIES.

Five persons were granted housing priority on medical grounds for the reasons listed below :—

Diabetes	...	...	...	...	2
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1
					—
					5
					—

**MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY.**

The Dudley Mass Miniature Radiography Mobile Unit carried out surveys of referred cases and also a factory visit. The referrals were dealt with on the basis of a quarterly visit, the unit staying one day. In conformity with the recommendations of the Adrian Committee where children under fifteen and pregnant women needed to be X-Rayed, full size films were used instead of miniatures.

TOTAL PERSONS EXAMINED IN 1960			
	Male	Female	Total
Quarterly Referred Sessions	360	483	843

No tuberculous abnormalities were detected in any of these cases.

NON-TUBERCULOUS ABNORMALITIES DISCOVERED				
	Number Examined	Referred to Clinic or Hospital	Others	Total
Referred Sessions Quarterly	843	4	3	7

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.  
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1960.**

Disease	Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 & over	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	-	-	-	1	3	12	3	-	-	-	-	19
Measles ...	1	-	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	5
Whooping Cough ...	4	-	3	1	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	16
Dysentery ...	-	1	1	-	-	5	-	4	-	1	-	12
Primary Pneumonia ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Influenzal Pneumonia ...	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Paratyphoid B ...	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals	5	2	5	2	7	25	3	4	1	2	1	57



## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

### Smallpox.

A Dutch person flew from Singapore to London Airport passing through Columbo and Ceylon and on arrival was admitted to Longreach Hospital, Dartford suffering from smallpox. Between the time of arriving and being admitted to the smallpox hospital he attended the casualty department at Charing Cross Hospital and there remained for several hours, during which time two Redditch persons made contact with him in the casualty department where they were attending. One was a patient and the other accompanying him as a friend. When they returned to Redditch they and their families were placed in quarantine, they were both vaccinated and surrounding immediate contacts. As a further precaution the staff of the health department, the ambulance personnel, the staff of the Smallwood Hospital were all re-vaccinated. No cases of smallpox occurred.

### Paratyphoid.

On the 22nd December, 1960, a general practitioner was called to see a boy aged 5 years 10 months who was complaining of two to three days diarrhoea, he gave the appropriate treatment but the boy failed to respond. Two days later the case was notified to the Public Health Department as one of Dysentery. The Medical Officer of Health was called in as the child was complaining of bleeding and unduly severe effects from what should have been a mild illness. The child was admitted to Isolation Hospital straightaway.

Swabs were taken from the boy, his brother aged 9½ years and his mother and father. The reports on these swabs were, from the boy, a staphylococcus, from his brother and mother *Salmonella paratyphi B*.

The second swabs taken on the day of admission to hospital gave *Salmonella paratyphi B*. The organisms isolated were sent for special identification to the Central Reference Laboratory at Colindale. The subsequent report of the identification of the organism was that it belonged to the Phage type Beccles 4.

The food eaten by the family was sampled, no pathogenic organisms were isolated from the foodstuffs except from a particular make of coconut covered marshmallow biscuit. From this, *Salmonella paratyphi B* phage type Beccles 4 organisms were isolated. Further sealed packets of these same biscuits were examined with the same result. It was noted that these particular biscuits had been eaten by the mother and her two children, but the father, who was free from infection had not eaten of them. All other food stuffs were eaten by all members of the family.

Further samples of these biscuits were taken from the shops in the area and from those samples likewise, *Salmonella paratyphi B*, Beccles phage type 4 were isolated. Detailed investigation of the biscuits was carried out, the coconut covering was isolated with sterile precautions from the remainder of the biscuit, and it was found that the coconut covering contained the disease organism *Salmonella paratyphi B*, phage type Beccles 4, whereas the remainder of the biscuit, including the gelatine portino was sterile.

To avoid confusion from the possibility of external contamination all of the samples were taken in sealed cellophane containers as they had come from the factory, and these were delivered to the laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service, unopened, so that no possibility of external contamination was allowed. At the same time as these cases of infection were being investigated in Redditch further cases were reported in areas of the Midlands, which were likewise traced to the same organism and the same source of food.

Enquiry at the Central Enteric Reference Laboratory, Colindale revealed that these were the only cases of infection with this organism reported, and that in samples of food stuffs, this organism was quite rare and so far had only been found in coconut imported into this country from Ceylon. On checking with the Port Authority responsible for importing this coconut it was confirmed that this coconut was imported, a proportion sampled, and if the samples were found to be free from pathogenic organisms the coconut was issued for use.

Coconut from Ceylon was traced through the port to the manufacturer of the particular biscuits sampled in the Redditch Urban District of the same make as those eaten by the affected persons.

The affected boy suffered from the disease of Paratyphoid and was quite severely ill. He was not free from infection for three months. His mother suffered from diarrhoea but was not sufficiently ill to require hospitalization, she remained infected for three months. The brother who was a carrier became free from infection in a fortnight and suffered no untoward symptoms at all.

The firm supplying the biscuits was informed of the findings, their initial reaction was to question the need for withdrawing the biscuits as they had misunderstood the meaning of the clearing of the coconut at the port of entry. They had assumed that because investigation at the port of entry had produced no pathogenic organisms in this particular batch of coconut they need not sterilise the coconut during manufacture. After discussion with the Medical Officer of Health of the authority concerned and with the Medical Officer of Health of Redditch the manufacturers agreed to the instant withdrawal of stocks of biscuits coated with unsterilized coconut which they had issued and agreed to sterilize all further coconut before issue to the public. An extensive range of food stuffs containing coconut was sampled and the coconut covered biscuits were the only articles found to be contaminated. This appears to be associated with the fact that they were the only articles of food containing uncooked coconut. After discussion with the manufacturers, the B.B.C. and the Ministry of Health a national warning was issued on the B.B.C., television and in the press advising the public to cook raw coconut. The problem of possible importation of further infected coconut was discussed with the Port Medical Officer and the Ministry of Health and this led to representations being made to the Ceylon Government.

Certain lessons are to be learned from this experience, (1) that the rapid widespread dispersal of information is essential in this case the value of the B.B.C. and the press in issuing a public warning cannot be over estimated; (2) close co-operation between the Ministry of Health and the departments concerned is invaluable in sorting out the epidemiological pattern of the disease to enable prompt and effective control measures to be instituted; (3) early bacteriological notification is essential, I cannot over emphasise the need for early notification by general practitioners of cases of infectious diarrhoea. Had not the general practitioner in this case acted promptly in setting the wheels in motion essential information well may have been lost. It is important that the value of early notification should be stressed as a certain amount of laxity still occurs in the notification by general practitioners of food poisoning and suspected food poisoning and dysentery. This is not widespread and is limited to particular practices. It is hoped that the increasing awareness of the value of investigations of this sort, that the few practices where laxity in notification still occurs will be stimulated to reach the same standard of co-operation and initial awareness illustrated by the practitioner in this particular instance. (4) In all manufacturing processes involving food stuffs there is need for close consultation and co-operation between manufacturers and their local health departments. The trained epidemiologist seeing the manufacturing process



on the spot could often give the necessary advice which can prevent the contamination of food and the subsequent spread of food borne disease. In far too many instances the Medical Officer of Health has to investigate from the case back to the manufacturing processes. It is far better, whenever possible to correct the process at source.

**DIPHThERIA    IMMUNISATION.**

The “Immunisation State” of Redditch children on December 31st, 1960 was as follows :—

(1959 figures in brackets).

Year of Birth Age	1960 Under 1	1956—59 1—4	1951—55 5—9	1946—50 10—14	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster :					
A. 1956—1960            ...	169	1,810	2,324	205	4,508
(1955—1959)            ...	(118)	(1,772)	(2,380)	(110)	(4,380)
B. 1955 or earlier        ...	—	—	707	287	3,578
(1954 or earlier)        ...	—	—	(536)	(2,762)	(3,298)
No. of Births            ...	613				

The number of children immunised during the year was as follows :—

	1960	1959	1958	1957
Primary Immunisations :				
Under 5 years old        ...	646	524	466	399
5—14 years old            ...	58	29	16	8
Reinforcing “Booster” Injections                ...        ...	627	387	397	321

**Vaccination.**

NUMBER OF PERSONS VACCINATED OR RE-VACCINATED DURING 1960.						
AGE AT DATE OF VACCINATION	Under 1	1	2—4	5—14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	391 (368)	88 (15)	21 (10)	18 (8)	20 —	538 (401)
Number Re-Vaccinated	—	—	—	—	67 (14)	67 (14)

TUBERCULOSIS.

TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY  
DURING 1960.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2—	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4—	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
15—	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
25—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35—	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
45—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55—	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 & over	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0
Totals	8 (9)	6 (9)	1 (1)	0 (0)	5 (5)	1 (2)	0 (1)	0 (0)

The number of cases on the register on 31st December, 1960 was :—

	M.	F.	Total
Pulmonary	148	97	245
Non-Pulmonary	7	7	14
Total	155	104	259

Total on December 31st, 1959
234
15
249



## CARE OF THE ELDERLY.

The extent of the work in this field has been increasing over recent years and is going to continue to do so as the proportion of the elderly in the population continue to rise. After considerable discussion among statutory and voluntary workers in this field a determined effort was made to lay the basis of what could form an established service for the co-ordination of care for the elderly.

A General Meeting was called by the Chairman of the Council to which were invited representatives of all the voluntary and statutory bodies engaged in this work in the area. Discussion of the need showed that there was a good nucleus of persons doing a great deal to help, they were willing to encourage others to help and very anxious to work together to avoid overlapping of work, and so leaving other elderly persons who could benefit by some care. A small working committee was formed "The Older Person's Advisory Committee" membership comprising of statutory and voluntary persons under the Chairmanship of the Chairman of the Council. From the outset this Committee determined to work with the minimum of unnecessary administrative formality and try to utilise available efforts in the most profitable way.

An old person's register was established which was based on a detailed questionnaire form and a set of punch cards for the statistical analysis of the information and the selection of groups of persons with special individual needs. Very quickly it was realised that there was very little overlapping in the voluntary organisations working together on the same jobs. Starting with friendly rivalry between various voluntary bodies engaged on the same work members very soon fell into a team approach of their joint work. This completely dispelled the early misconceptions that voluntary bodies would have difficulty in working together due to personality clashes and conflicting views.

As the results of the survey carried out on the register showed the need of old persons, the efforts of the committee were channelled into lines most suited to their needs with emphasis on the more serious aspects affecting health and safety, particularly in the prevention of falls and burns in the home and the provision of friendly visits by voluntary persons. Visits were arranged to lonely persons both in the town and living in institutes away from the town. Arrangements were made to provide meals in cases of need, to provide clothes, recuperative holidays, chiropody, outings and similar activities aimed on making the lot of old persons a happier one.

During the period of winter bronchitis arrangements were made for breathing exercises for the elderly which took the form of party games with balloons on a competitive basis in Darby and Joan clubs, coupled with special exercises for stiff fingers and stiff shoulders. It was not possible to attempt any measurement of the success of this, but from general observation it appeared to be a very worthwhile activity.

Many housing defects were remedied, particularly inaccessible gas and electric meters and fittings; stair rails or ropes were fitted where they were missing or extra ones were needed. In this, many house owners made provision themselves, or if they were unable to do this, the committee, out of voluntary funds, paid for the work to be done.

# REDDTICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

## OLDER PERSONS REGISTER (SPECIMEN FORM)

Date of completion

Name	Index	Action Taken
Address		
Age		
Married Widowed Single (delete as appropriate)		
General Practitioner		
Nearest relative or help		
Occupation or previous occupation of self or husband		
<b>1. HEALTH</b>		
1. Is your health good, bad, indifferent ? (delete as necessary)		
2. Have you been falling about in the last two years ?	Yes No	
3. Do you have dizzy spells ?	Yes No	
4. Do you have painful feet ?	Yes No	
5. Do you have painful or stiff joints ?	Yes No	
6. Are you hard of hearing ?	Yes No	
7. Is your eyesight adequate, if glasses worn with them on ?	Yes No	
8. Are your teeth own or false in a good state ?	Yes No	
<b>II. WELFARE</b>		
Type of home. Bungalow, House, Flat, Temporary, Moveable. (delete as necessary)		
1. Do you live alone ?	Yes No	
2. Do you go out visiting or Shopping ?	Yes No	
3. Are you able to do your own housework ?	Yes No	
4. Are you able to wash yourself ?	Yes No	
5. Are you able to bath yourself ?	Yes No	
6. Are you able to cook yourself hot meals ?	Yes No	

III. SAFETY					
1. Is the house lighting satisfactory ?	Yes	No			
2. Are the stairs safe ?	Yes	No			
3. Are the floors even ?	Yes	No			
4. Are the door steps safe ?	Yes	No			
5. Are the meters within easy reach without a chair ?	Gas Yes	No No			
6. Are there any aids ?	Bath Yes	No No			
7. Are the floor coverings in order ?	Yes	No			
8. Are your shoes satisfactory ?	Yes	No			

IV. VISITORS

Health Visitor .....

District Nurse .....

Home Help .....

Meals on Wheels .....

Voluntary Visits .....

.....

V. SPECIAL COMMENTS

.....

.....

.....

.....

Signature of Person Completing Form .....

Older Person's Register					
Total Number	Male	...	...	...	69
	Female	...	...	...	256
					325

AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION			
Age Group	Male	Female	Total
60—64	2	9	11
65—69	5	35	40
70—74	16	60	76
75—79	17	72	89
80—84	19	60	79
85—89	7	15	22
90—94	2	3	5
95 and over	1	2	3
Total All Ages	69	256	325



MARITAL STATE			
Sex	Married	Widowed	Single
Male	47	22	0
Female	58	159	39
Both Sexes	105	181	39

REPORTED STATE OF HEALTH			
Sex	Good	Indifferent	Bad
Male	19	38	12
Female	70	162	24
Both Sexes	89	200	36

Health	Male	Female	Total
Falling about in last two years	24	99	123
Having dizzy spells	32	137	169
Painful Feet	27	125	152
Painful or stiff joints	38	179	217
Hard of hearing	22	82	104
Inadequate eyesight with glasses if worn	19	62	81
Inadequate teeth or dentures	18	36	54
Not able to wash themselves	6	13	19
Not able to cook meals	31	46	77
Not able to bath themselves	15	46	61

CONTACT WITH OTHER PERSONS			
	Male	Female	Both Sexes
Living Alone	9	98	107
Housebound	23	91	114
Living Alone and Housebound	1	24	25

These figures indicate clearly that there is a need for increased provision for residential care for the elderly and the provision of a day centre.

USE MADE OF VISITING SERVICES		
Health Visitors	... ..	152
District Nurses	... ..	37
Home Help...	... ..	20
Meals on Wheels	... ..	10
Voluntary Visits	... ..	44

The bulk of these visits by the health visitor were carried out by one health visitor spending half time on this work. This indicates too heavy a load and the need for more health visitors time spent on work with old persons.

	Male		Female		Both Sexes	
	Capable	Not Capable	Capable	Not Capable	Capable	Not Capable
Living Alone	2	7	83	15	185	22
Not Living Alone	31	29	97	61	128	90
Totals	33	36	180	76	213	112

PERSONS RECEIVING HOME HELPS			
	Male		Female
Living Alone	3		7
Not Living Alone	4		6
Total	...	...	13

These figures indicate that there is a need for considerable improvement in provision of home helps for the elderly.

DEFECT IN HOUSES AFFECTING SAFETY		
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Lighting ... ..	314	11
Stairs ... ..	282	19
Floors ... ..	290	35
Door Steps ... ..	310	15
Accessibility of electric and gas meters ... ..	256	69
Floor Coverings	311	14

PROVISION OF AIDS	
	Provided by Older Person's Advisory Committee
Bath ... ..	0
Stair Rail or Ropes ... ..	28
Fireguards ... ..	19

## MAGGOT BREEDING.

During the year public attention was focussed on the use of maggots as a bait in fishing. In the interests of salmon fishing the use of maggots as bait in waters controlled by the Wye River Board was prohibited. This led to suggestions that the Minister of Health should prohibit the use of maggots as bait in any form. The grounds given were that maggots are the larvae of flies and bluebottles, both of which are well known vectors of disease.

Redditch is traditionally the home of the fishing tackle industry. In the past maggots were bred all over the area in little back sheds, in lavatories and most unhygienic places using wild flies and so being fraught with the risk of spreading gastro-intestinal diseases. Steps have been taken to prevent this indiscriminate maggot breeding and limit the production of maggots to factory production where careful control of the process by the public health inspectorate can ensure that there is no risk to the public and no nuisance from the effluvia. The principle adopted to obviate this risk is to use artificial ventilation through an extractor plant with a washer, so that the whole factory is at a pressure below that of the surrounding atmosphere. In addition entry into the fly rooms is through an insecticide lock similar to the escape chamber of a submarine.

Detailed bacteriological and virological examination of repeated samples of maggots taken at different stages of development both in the factory and obtained from shops, has shown that they are free from pathogenic organisms. General observations seem to point to there being little risk of infection being spread by maggots. It is perhaps not widely appreciated that it is quite a common practice for fishermen to put maggots in their mouths, as it is claimed that the effect of the warm saliva is to cause the maggots to wriggle in a more lively fashion and so attract the fish to the hook more readily. Although this practice is to be deprecated on aesthetic grounds it does not appear to constitute an appreciable health hazard.

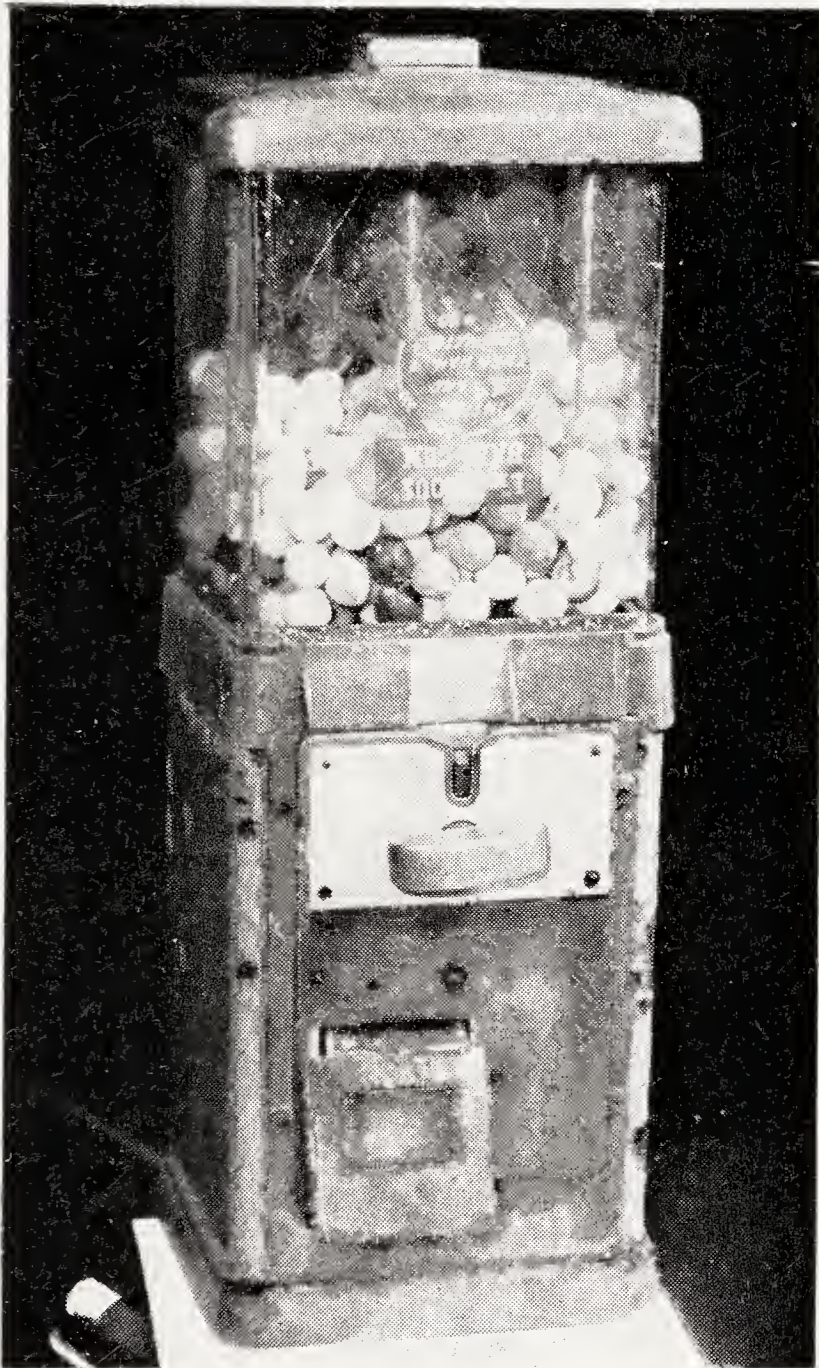
The suggestion has been made that the maggots when they are discarded will grow into flies and so produce a health hazard. Observations on the fate of discarded maggots show that only a very small number survive. They readily die from exposure. This has been experienced in sampling and transport. They are also eaten by fish when cast into the water and by birds and land animals when cast on the ground. The few survivors make only an infinitesimal contribution to our total fly population and cannot be considered a significant factor in the epidemiology of human disease. The recommendation to prohibit maggot breeding would be attendant with danger as it would serve to encourage illicit back yard maggot breeding. From experience of when this has occurred it is clear that large numbers of flies could be produced and permitted to go free to infect the public. The present policy of limiting maggot production to established factories under close supervision and control is the preferable course.



I am grateful to the Editor of "The Medical Officer" for allowing me to reprint the following article from "The Medical Officer," September, 1961.

## CONTAMINATION OF SWEET VENDING MACHINES

By W. DRAWNEEK, M.B., B.S.(London), D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health, Redditch Urban District



A machine seized under the F & DA, 1955

With the increase in the habit of chewing gum, slot machines for dispensing ball gum have been appearing on the streets, on shop fronts and in public places in ever increasing numbers during the last few years. A common type of machine in use is the "Crusader" which consists of a transparent perspex sweet container mounted on an iron base which houses the operating mechanism and the box for the coins. To operate the machine a penny is inserted into a slot on the front, the handle is turned and an unwrapped ball gum rolls down a chute into a pan, the front of which is covered by a hinged metal flap with a centre window of glass. Painted in bright colours, red, orange, yellow or blue, with their ball gums also brightly coloured visible through the transparent perspex container, these machines present an obvious attraction to young children and even to young adolescents. To provide an extra attraction some machines contain in addition to the sweets a variety of cheap

plastic toys and trinkets. It has been observed that in some instances sales have reached the level of 400 ball gums per week per machine. Sites have been found where to meet the obvious public demand, two machines have been placed side by side.

The details of ownership and operation vary. In some instances the machines have been bought outright by the shopkeepers, in some by hire purchase and in the remainder of cases, which constitute the majority, the site is rented to a location supervisor employed by the machine-vending company. The latter arrangement is that the site supervisor is responsible for the machine and pays a percentage, roughly 15 per cent., of the takings to the site owner. A signed agreement is made between the site owner and the vendor by which the supply of sweets and the maintenance of the machine is the sole responsibility of the vendor. As a result of the bankruptcy and liquidation of the large parent company responsible for supplying



and running these machines, many of them were abandoned and fell into a state of disrepair. Not being serviced they became rusty, rubber sealing gaskets perished, and rain water penetrated to the interior. This decided many site owners to withdraw the machines. Some however were anxious lest they fell into legal difficulties by removing the vendor's machines, and so left them on the site.

Some of the machines remaining in use received a very poor standard of attention. The practice was for the operators to arrive by car, often at night, then simply remove the cap, pour in new sweets on top of the old, collect the money, leave the appropriate percentage with the site owner and go on to the next machine. The whole operation was conducted with great haste, no time being given to cleaning and maintenance. Some of the machines were in such a bad state that wasps, flies, earwigs, and ants had gained access to the chutes and sweet containers.



**State of the contents of a seized machine**

During the latter months of 1960 and early 1961 a series of these machines were seized and brought before a Justice of the Peace. Orders were made under Section 9 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, condemning the food as unsound and authorizing its destruction or disposal. The opportunity was taken to carry out a bacteriological investigation to determine what pathogens, if any, were present.

Fifty-eight machines were examined. Swabs were taken from the pan, the chute and the container of each machine. The majority of the swabs gave a scanty growth of aerobic spore-bearers and non-pathogenic



staphylococci only, that is ordinary dust contaminants. One machine gave a mixed growth of non-pathogenic staphylococci and spore-bearers and also **Streptococcus pyogenes** and **Escherichia coli** from the pan and chute.

After an interval during which time no machines of this description were to be found in the district, two machines re-appeared on the pavement outside a shop. Each had been cleaned and polished to such an extent that it was almost possible to see one's face in it. A small blue label was stuck to each perspex container stating "this machine has been disinfected with ———disinfectant." Swabs were taken from these machines and they were withdrawn from use. The results were as follows :—

Machine (1)	Pan	Spore-formers, white and yellow staphylococci and <b>Streptococcus viridans</b> .
	Chute	Spore-formers and white staphylococci.
Machine (2)	Pan	Spore-formers, white and yellow staphylococci and <b>Escherichia coli</b> .
	Chute	No growth.

In view of the high sucrose content of the ball gum coating and the relative lack of protein it was suggested that human bacteria entering the machine would find an inhospitable environment and well might die off readily. To determine the life of bacterial contaminants a simple experiment was carried out.

A machine was emptied of ball gums and sterilized by boiling, check swabs were then taken and the sweet container, chute and pan were inoculated with fresh mixed cultures of **Streptococcus pyogenes**, **Staphylococcus aureus** and **Escherichia coli**. Swabs were taken at approximately weekly intervals. After five days swabs from the perspex container gave no growth, but all these organisms were recovered from the pan and chute of the machine. After 16 days the streptococci were no longer found. The staphylococci and **Escherichia coli** were still found at 33 days, but not at 40 days.

#### DISCUSSION

Contamination in vending machines of this type can arise in several ways. At filling, bacteria can be introduced with the sweets, insects can gain access and carry bacteria, or the chute and pan can be contaminated by the fingers of persons removing the ball gums at the time of purchase. The latter two routes appear to be the more important. Penetration of the perspex by light well may account for the shorter life of bacteria in the sweet container than in the darker interior of the metal parts. Improved design could reduce the risk of entry by large insects such as wasps and earwigs, but it is very difficult to make working clearances so small that ants and red spiders cannot enter. Any machine with unwrapped sweets into which children can poke their fingers is fundamentally unsound. Introduced bacteria can live for an appreciable period of time. The obvious risk is one that is unacceptable and it is clear that such machines should be withdrawn from use.

These observations would apply equally to a wide range of unwrapped sweets in a variety of circumstances. In general it can be said that no dispensing of unwrapped sweets in slot machines should be permitted. Medical officers of health have the necessary powers to act in this sort of case under Section 9 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, or under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960.

#### SUMMARY

Slot machines dispensing unwrapped ball gums were examined bacteriologically. Three out of 60 were found contaminated by human bacteria. **Streptococcus pyogenes** inoculated into a machine lived for between a week and 16 days. **Staphylococcus aureus** and **Escherichia coli** survived between 33 and 40 days.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my thanks to Dr. R. J. Henderson, Director of the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester, who kindly carried out the examination of the swabs and supplied the bacterial cultures.





# ***ANNUAL REPORT***

of the

**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR**

# REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1960.

—O—

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Redditch Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my twenty-second annual report and details of inspections made and improvements effected are as follows :—

## INSPECTIONS.

Accumulations Found	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Animals Kept	—	Piggeries	...	...	...	...	85
	—	Fowls, Pigeons, etc.	...	...	...	...	27
Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	334
Cottagers' Pigs	...	No. of notifications of slaughter	...	...	...	...	2
	—	No. of pigs inspected	...	...	...	...	2
Drainage	...	No. of drains found choked	...	...	...	...	44
	—	No. of drains found defective	...	...	...	...	38
	—	No. of drains tested	...	...	...	...	191
	—	Visits to work in progress	...	...	...	...	143
	—	Visits to premises re cesspools	...	...	...	...	54
Dwelling Houses	..	No. inspected re repairs	...	...	...	...	673
	—	Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	1486
	—	No. inspected re overcrowding	...	...	...	...	11
	—	No. found dirty	...	...	...	...	9
	—	No. found verminous (Premises)	...	...	...	...	3
	—	No. found verminous (Persons)	...	...	...	...	—
	—	Visits re Pail closet conversions	...	...	...	...	17
	—	No. of systematic inspection	...	...	...	...	274
Rodent Control	...	No. of premises visited	...	...	...	...	2196
	—	No. of premises found infested	...	...	...	...	459
	—	Total number of visits	...	...	...	...	4894
Infectious Diseases	...	Visits re Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	27
	—	Visits re Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—
	—	Visits re Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	196
Factories	...	With mechanical power	...	...	...	...	49
	—	Without mechanical power	...	...	...	...	19
	—	Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	16
	—	Other Premises	...	...	...	...	23
Food Premises	...	Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	81
	—	Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	489
	—	Confectioners	...	...	...	...	28
	—	Market	...	...	...	...	39
	—	Dairies	...	...	...	...	19
	—	Fishmongers and Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	46
	—	Greengrocers and Grocers	...	...	...	...	102
	—	Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	12
	—	Ice Cream Vendors and Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	58
	—	Ice Cream samples taken	...	...	...	...	8
	—	Preparation of potted meat, etc.	...	...	...	...	11
	—	Restaurants, Cafe Kitchens and Factory Canteens	...	...	...	...	71
Knackers Yard	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Smoke Abatement	...	No. of observations made	...	...	...	...	46
	—	Inspection of premises	...	...	...	...	37
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
Water Supplies	...	Visits to premises re wells	...	...	...	...	19
	—	No. of samples taken	...	...	...	...	2



Local Authority									
Premises	...	Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
	—	Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
	—	Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
	—	Swimming Baths	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
	—	Samples of water taken from baths	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	—	Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	513
Total number of inspections									10,290

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

During the year 42 applications for improvement grants were approved. The total amount approved for grant was £7,085. Of these 21 applications were for standard grants, an average of £144 per house, and 21 applications were for discretionary grants, an average of £193 per house. Details of grants were as follows :—

### Standard Grants

97, Holloway Lane	...	...	...	£150
269 Beoley Road	...	...	...	£115
6 Mount Street	...	...	...	£105
24 Mason Road	...	...	...	£105
22 South Street	...	...	...	£145
8 Mount Street	...	...	...	£155
10 Mount Street	...	...	...	£155
12 Mount Street	...	...	...	£155
14 Mount Street	...	...	...	£155
20 Mount Street	...	...	...	£155
33 Mount Street	...	...	...	£155
50 Parsons Road	...	...	...	£155
40 Parsons Road	...	...	...	£155
54 Lodge Road	...	...	...	£155
35 Mount Street	...	...	...	£155
39 Mount Street	...	...	...	£155
41 Mount Street	...	...	...	£155
43 Mount Street	...	...	...	£155
45 Mount Street	...	...	...	£155
47 Mount Street	...	...	...	£155
69 Heathfield Road	...	...	...	£75

### Discretionary Grants

13 Mount Street	...	...	...	£119
"Windridge," Dagtail Lane	...	...	...	£235
"Wren's Nest," Astwood Hill	...	...	...	£200
8 Feckenham Road	...	...	...	£100
Feckenham Vicarage (2 flats)	...	...	...	£800
107 Archer Road	...	...	...	£85
59 Grove Street	...	...	...	£165
63 Oakly Road	...	...	...	£110
Millstream Cottage, Hunt End	...	...	...	£210
19 Beoley Road	...	...	...	£150
Windmill Cottage	...	...	...	£400
82 Lodge Road	...	...	...	£105
10 Mason Road	...	...	...	£105
31 St. George's Road	...	...	...	£145
"Halmay," Astwood Hill	...	...	...	£175
Trixie's Hole, Cruise Hill	...	...	...	£400
96 Birchfield Road	...	...	...	£145
33 South Street	...	...	...	£75
Cottage at junction of Salter's Lane and Brockhill Lane	...	...	...	£150
174 Plymouth Road	...	...	...	£195

## WATER SUPPLIES.

Water is supplied throughout the district by the East Worcestershire Waterworks Co. Two samples of mains water were taken for analysis which were satisfactory.

Of the 10,767 occupied premises in the district 99.3% have mains supply and only 77 houses are using wells. Two wells were abolished during the year.

Details of water main extensions during the year are as follows :—

Millsboro' Road, Redditch	...	98 yards 6" S.I.
Cedar View, Redditch	...	74 yards 3" S.I.
Harport Road, Redditch	...	178 yards 3" S.I.
Cedar View, Redditch	...	63 yards 2" S.I.
St. George's Road, Redditch	...	69 yards 3" S.I.
St. George's Road, Redditch	...	123 yards 2" S.I.
Chapel Lane, Astwood Bank	...	80 yards 3" S.I.
Weavers Hill, Hunt End	...	321 yards 3" P.V.C.
Malvern Road, Headless Cross	...	100 yards 3" S.I.
Webheath Estate, Redditch	...	235 yards 6" A/C
Webheath Estate, Redditch	...	436 yards 4" A/C
Webheath Estate, Redditch	...	282 yards 4" A/C
Mason Road, Headless Cross	...	50 yards 2" S.I.
Crabbs Cross Lane	...	99 yards 3" S.I.
Wordsworth Avenue, Headless Cross	...	29 yards 2" S.I.
Rectory Road, Headless Cross	...	103 yards 2" A/C

Total 2,351 yards

## FOOD PREMISES.

There are in the urban area 328 food premises, details of which are as follows :—

	No.	No. of inspections
Slaughterhouses	1	489
Butchers' shops	33	81
Restaurants and cafes	16	45
Factory Canteens	12	26
Confectioners	9	28
Ice Cream Vendors and Manufacturers	29	58
Fishmongers & Fried Fish Shops	17	46
Bakehouses	8	16
Market	1	39
Dairies	2	19
Greengrocers and Grocers	134	102
Licensed Premises	66	12
Total	<u>328</u>	<u>961</u>

## MILK SUPPLY.

The register contains 25 distributors two of which have registered dairies. These dairies are used for depots only and no pasteurised or sterilised milk is processed in the urban district. At one farm only tuberculin tested milk is bottled on the premises, the remainder of the milk produced in the area is taken to dairies outside the urban district. The Redditch Urban District was included in a "specified area" from 1st October, 1954.

Seven samples of milk (3 pasteurised, 1 tuberculin tested pasteurised and 3 sterilised) were taken for examination. Satisfactory reports were received in respect of all the samples.

Licences granted during the year for the sale of designated milk were as follows :—

Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	20
Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	23
Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	23

The following is a list of foodstuffs surrendered as unfit for human consumption :—

Tinned Fruit	...	...	...	286	tins
Tinned Meat	...	...	...	91	tins
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	67	tins
Tinned vegetables...	...	...	...	50	tins
Tinned tomatoes	...	...	...	71	tins
Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	33	tins
Condensed Milk	...	...	...	1	tin
Golden Syrup	...	...	...	1	tin
Soup	...	...	...	24	tins
Cream	...	...	...	6	tins
Creamed Rice	...	...	...	3	tins
Jam ...	...	...	...	2	jars
Lemon Curd	...	...	...	1	jar
Mincemeat	...	...	...	1	jar
Fowl	...	...	...	135 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	55 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.
Cooked Ham	...	...	...	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.
Cooked Tongue	...	...	...	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	lbs.
Sausages	...	...	...	47	lbs.
Beef	...	...	...	132	lbs.
Lamb	...	...	...	75	lbs.
Butter	...	...	...	10	lbs.
Cakes	...	...	...	48	
Sponge Mix	...	...	...	18	packets
Biscuits	...	...	...	1	packet
Cereals	...	...	...	1	packet
Dried Fruit Salad...	...	...	...	20	lbs.
Green Peas...	...	...	...	16	lbs.
Rice	...	...	...	24	lbs.
Sago	...	...	...	1	tin
Sauce	...	...	...	1	bottle
Macaroni Pudding	...	...	...	4	tins
Coffee	...	...	...	7	tins
Cheese	...	...	...	5	lbs. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.
Dog Meat	...	...	...	1	tin
Assorted Pies	...	...	...	235	

## ICE CREAM.

One hundred and twenty-four premises are registered to retail ice cream and of these four are registered to manufacture. During the year 58 inspections were made and 4 samples taken for bacteriological examination and 4 samples taken for chemical analysis.

### Bacteriological Samples.

There are four provisional grades for ice cream and grades 1 and 2 are satisfactory. The 4 samples taken were Grade 1.

### Chemical Samples.

The minimum chemical standard for ice cream is 5% fat, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ % solids not fat. Of the samples taken the highest fat content was 13.7% and the lowest 8.25%. The average was 11.9%. The highest total solids content was 27% and the lowest 20.65%. The average was 24.2%



## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Of the 33 butchers shops, 12 are multiple concerns. The majority of the remaining butchers buy off the hook. Three local butchers slaughter at the Alcester Co-operative Slaughterhouse and two at the only licensed slaughterhouse in the area at Feckenham. A wholesaler also uses the slaughterhouse at Feckenham and supplies 18 butchers in the town of which 3 are multiple shops. The remaining butchers buy from wholesalers at Stratford, Worcester and Birmingham.

100% inspection of carcasses is maintained of animals slaughtered in the district. I have reason to believe this also applies at the other three centres. Details of meat inspection is given in the following table.

961 inspections were made at food premises as compared with 890 the previous year. Visits to the slaughterhouse were 489 as compared with 474 the previous year and the number of animals inspected 20,592 an increase of 1,344.

### CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle exclud- ing cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed (if known)	807	89	1,117	16,996	1,583
No. inspected	807	89	1,117	16,996	1,583
All diseases except Tuberculosis :					
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	—	1	3	79	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	31	16	8	1,903	64
Percentage of the number affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	3.8%	18%	.71%	11.2%	4%
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned ... ..	—	1	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2	4	—	—	19
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	.25%	5.6%	—	—	1.26%

## RODENT CONTROL.

Local authority premises, such as refuse tips and sewage works, are regularly inspected and treated when necessary. The analysis of Inspection and Treatment is as follows :—

### Inspections :

Number of domestic premises inspected	...	...	...	1675
Number of business premises inspected	...	...	...	338
Number of Local Authority premises inspected	...	...	...	121
Number of Farms inspected	...	...	...	62
Total number of premises inspected				2196

### Infestations Found :

Total number of infestations found	...	...	...	459
------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

### Analysis of Infestations :

Number of infestations found (Rats) (Major)	...	...	...	21
Number of infestations found (Rats) (Minor)	...	...	...	400
Total number of infestations of rats found				421
Number of infestations found (Mice) (Major)	...	...	...	8
Number of infestations found (Mice) (Minor)	...	...	...	30
Total number of infestations of mice found				38

### Treatment :

Number of first treatments	...	...	...	442
Number of second treatments	...	...	...	5
Total number of treatments				447
Total number of visits for treatment				2698

### Analysis of First Treatments :

Number of first treatments (Rats) (Major)	...	...	...	21
Number of first treatments (Rats) (Minor)	...	...	...	389
Number of first treatments (Mice) (Major)	...	...	...	9
Number of first treatments (Mice) (Minor)	...	...	...	23
Total number of treatments (Rats and Mice)				442

### Sewer Maintenance Treatment :

Number of sewer maintenance treatments	...	...	...	2
Number of manholes baited (first treatment)	...	...	...	157
Number of manholes baited (second treatment)	...	...	...	155
Total number of manholes baited				312

### Analysis of First Treatment :

Bait Base : Damp Sausage Rusk and Arsenious Oxide (10%)				
Number of manholes test baited (10% of manholes not included in previous treatment)	...	...	...	73
Number of manholes baited (actual treatment)	...	...	...	157
Number of manholes showing prebait take	...	...	...	71
Number of manholes showing complete prebait take	...	...	...	57
Number of manholes showing partial prebait take	...	...	...	14

### Analysis of Second Treatment :

Bait Base : Bread Mash with 2½% Zinc Phosphide.				
Number of manholes baited (actual treatment)	...	...	...	155
Number of manholes showing prebait take	...	...	...	47
Number of manholes showing complete prebait take	...	...	...	47
Number of manholes showing partial prebait take	...	...	...	26

# RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

The main purpose of this Act is to improve the standard of cleanliness of fillings used in upholstery and for the registration of premises where this work is carried out. It does not apply to the remaking or reconditioning of furniture. When the act came into operation in August, 1951, two premises were registered under these provisions. They have since ceased to manufacture furniture and are not now subject to the provisions of this Act.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Details of Licenses issued during the year in accordance with section 269, Public Health Act, 1936, are as follows :—

Site	Site Occupier.	Occupier of Moveable Dwelling.
Adjoining 32, Yvonne Rd.	H. E. Quinney, The Rough, Headless Cross.	Mrs. R. E. Hodges
Astwood Bank Farm	J. Shirley-Priest, Astwood Bank Farm.	Mr. J. Palmer
Bordesley Lodge Farm Birmingham Road	T. Dickenson, Bordesley Lodge Farm.	Mr. G. Oakley

It will be noted that only one caravan is occupied on each site.

## HOUSING.

During the year the following clearance areas were confirmed :—

Edward Street Clearance Area No. 1 ...	6 houses
Edward Street Clearance Area No. 2 ...	13 houses
Edward Street Clearance Area No. 3 ...	20 houses
Total	39 houses

Three individual houses were demolished during the year.

## INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts ...	672
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1486
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	274
(2) (b)	Number of inspections made for this purpose ...	274
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	73
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	96

## REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...

70



**ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.**

(a)	<b>Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957.</b>		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	Nil.
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
(a)	By Owners	...	Nil.
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	...	Nil.
(b)	<b>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</b>		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	26
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
(a)	By Owners	...	26
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	...	Nil.
(c)	<b>Proceedings under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957.</b>		
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	3
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	—
(3)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	3
(d)	<b>Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957.</b>		
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	Nil.

**HOUSING ACT, 1957, PART IV, OVERCROWDING.**

(a)	(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year...	No accurate information available.
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein	
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	
(c)	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	

## FACTORIES.

### 1.—INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Premises (1)	No. on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities ... ..	47	19	—	—
(2) Factories not in- cluded in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Auth- ority ... ..	279	49	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises	9	39	—	—
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted  (6)
	Found  (2)	Remedied  (3)	Referred To H.M. In-spector  (4)	Referred By H.M. In-spector  (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..	4	4	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inaffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	3	3	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outworkers) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

G. H. CHAMPION,

Chief Public Health Inspector.







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